

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05

OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSO-00 /076 W

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R 161220Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 3617

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL SAUNDERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, EG

SUBJECT: SOME SYRIANS HOPEFUL SINAI AGREEMENT WILL LEAD
TO FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS

1. CROSS-SECTION OF SYRIANS WE HAVE TALKED WITH
RECENTLY HAVE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SINAI AGREEMENT, ALTHOUGH
REGRETABLE IN SOME ASPECTS, WILL LEAD TO FURTHER SYRIAN-ISRAELI
NEGOTIATIONS. DR. FUAD CHEBAT, FORMER ACTING INTERIOR MINISTER
AND DEAN OF DAMASCUS LAW FACULTY AND PRESENTLY PROF. OF LAW AND
DIPLOMACY AT DAMASCUS UNIVERSITY AND CHAIRMAN OF SYRIAN CHAPTER
OF WORLD PEACE THROUGH LAW ASSOCIATION, TOLD US SEPT. 15 THAT HE
BELIEVES FURTHER AGREEMENT WILL TAKE PLACE AFFECTING GOLAN. TWO
WELL-ESTABLISHED BUSINESSMEN TOLD EMBOFF OVER WEEKEND IN SEPARATE
DISCUSSIONS THAT THEY DID NOT WANT ANOTHER WAR AND PRAISED SINAI
AGREEMENT FOR MAKING PEACE POSSIBLE.

2. SOURCE WHO RECENTLY MET WITH SOME MEMBERS OF MUSLIM
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BRETHREN TOLD US THAT BRETHREN HAVE FOUND NUMBER OF EXCUSES

TO JUSTIFY SIGNING OF ACCORD AND IN EFFECT ARE SUPPORTING
SADAT'S PEACE POLICY. OF RELATED INTEREST MAY BE
STATEMENT BY EGYPTIAN EMBOFF WHO REPORTED TO US THAT MANY OF
SERMONS AT MOSQUE PRAYER SESSIONS PREVIOUS FRIDAY WERE DIRECTED
AGAINST COMMUNISM. EGYPTIAN THOUGHT THIS RESULTED FROM
PERCEIVED OPPOSITION OF USSR TO ACCORD AND SADAT'S
REMARKS CRITICAL OF SOVIET POSITION.

3. EGYPTIAN ADDED, FOR WHAT IT WORTH, THAT MANY EDUCATED
SYRIANS WERE AT HEART SYMPATHETIC TO SADAT ALTHOUGH BAATHIS
WERE OF COURSE SUPPORTING PARTY LINE. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE
"UNDERSTOOD" MANY SYRIAN OFFICERS WERE IN FAVOR OF SINAI
AGREEMENT.

4. COMMENT: SAMPLING IS ADMITTEDLY LIMITED, BUT IT DOES SERVE
TO POINT OUT THAT THERE ARE SYRIANS, PERHAPS A SIGNIFICANT
NUMBER OF THEM, WHO APPROVE THE SINAI ACCORD DESPITE THE
BAATH'S OPPOSITION TO IT.
MURPHY

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